

**To:** CN=Bruce Herbold/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]  
**Cc:** []  
**Bcc:** []  
**From:** CN=Kathleen Goforth/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US  
**Sent:** Thur 5/26/2005 5:23:25 PM  
**Subject:** Re: help with contaminant effects on fishes, please?  
[Delta Pelagic Decline Work Plan May 20.doc](#)

Bruce -

Thanks for your message. I just heard a couple days ago that you were working on this issue, and I've been interested to know more about it. I'm available as follows:

May 31: Not available

June 1: Available via phone 9-11:30 and 1:00-3:30

June 2: Available via phone 9-noon and 1:30 - 2:30

June 6 PM: Not available

June 7: Available 10:30 - 3:30

June 10: Available 9 - 6 [Right now, this appears to be the best date for me.]

My availability on 6/3 is iffy -- I have no meetings scheduled, but am likely to need that time to deal with a couple of my projects that are desperately in need of attention. As interested as I am, I'm not sure whether I would be the best person to assist you at the meeting or not. I'm not an expert on pyrethroids, so may not be able to add much from a technical standpoint. For now, consider me a potential back-up, if no one else with more expertise is available.

I suggest you also invite Raymond Chavira to participate in the internal discussion. He's the lead for water issues in the Pesticides Office.

A few other miscellaneous thoughts, off the top of my head:

o Kelly Moran, a contractor who has been doing a lot of work on pesticides for the SF Bay Regional Board, has produced a number of reports analyzing pesticide sales data, documenting the trend toward increasing use of pyrethroids. I have copies of at least a few of her reports, and can dig them out, or put you in touch with Kelly, if you're interested.

o Bill Johnson at the SF Regional Board might also be a good person to talk to. He is the lead for RB2's pesticide TMDL, and chairs the Urban Pesticide Committee (an ad hoc committee comprised of fed, state, and local agencies, academics, environmental groups, pesticide manufacturers, etc., that has been meeting for the past 9 years or so to share info on pesticide/water quality issues; Ray Chavira and I are the EPA reps), so he's plugged into a lot of sources of info regarding pesticides and water quality.

o Is anyone from the Central Valley Regional Board, NOAA Fisheries, or FWS involved in your effort?

o Has low DO been considered as a contributing factor to the observed declines? This comes to mind only because, in 2000, we disapproved an amendment to the Central Valley RB's DO objectives that had been adopted by the RB in 1994 which re-worded the objectives in such a way that the % saturation component of the objective no longer applied to the Delta, and some poorly defined areas within the Delta were left with no DO objectives at all. (This was, apparently, the result of poor editing of the amendment, not an intentional change; but RB staff had not realized the mistake until we caught it in our review, by which time it had been in effect for several years. Because the amendment was adopted prior to the Alaska Rule, it remains in effect today even though we disapproved it.) In a discussion a couple years ago with RB staff (Les Grober, Mark Gowdy, and Betty Yee) about how they might resolve the disapproval, the staff advised that they did not have good data regarding Delta DO levels -- neither

historic nor current -- and would have to undertake some major studies to ascertain current conditions and the DO needs of the Delta's biota in order to come up with appropriate new objectives. They were going to scope out the sorts of studies that would be needed; but, as yet, have not done so, as far as I know. I have no idea whether DO might be relevant to the fish/inverts decline or not, but thought I'd mention this while you're still in the scoping phase of your effort, in the interest of not overlooking anything.

o I have a small hodge-podge of emails regarding pyrethroids (impacts on aquatic species, availability of analytical methods, names of contacts, etc.) that I've saved. I'll forward them to you for your perusal, since they might contain some useful bits of information.

-Kathy

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Bruce Herbold/R9/USEPA/US

05/25/2005 02:27 PM

To Karen Heisler/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathleen Goforth/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Debra Denton/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Elizabeth Borowiec/R9/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US@EPA  
Subject help with contaminant effects on fishes, please?

Hello all,

I am very involved in a multi-disciplinary, high profile, fast turn-around study of likely stressors on fishes in the delta. A number of populations of open-water fish in the delta have exhibited a simultaneous short, sharp decline in the last three years, including the ESA listed delta smelt. This has opened people to the possibility that water quality might be as important as water project operations in protecting aquatic species.

Unfortunately most of my experience involves water project operations rather than contaminants. Increasing pyrethroid use in the Central Valley, new growth of Microcystis in dense patches of corn-flake sized clumps, and the chemical efforts to control the growth of aquatic nuisance plants are all candidates for further study. Studies in 2005 are attempting to reduce the list of possible culprits down to a shorter list for detailed studies in 2006. I have attached the workplan for this effort (which has gotten funded and is moving forward, with a major planning meeting amongst the Pls next Friday, June 3 in Sacramento).

I would very much like to get your thoughts and/or involvement as this array of studies moves forward. Review of the current effort, suggestions for literature and data to better inform this effort, coordination of studies that relate to this effort, and suggestions for data analysis and synthesis to lead into a workplan for 2006 are all topics I would appreciate your input on.

If you are interested or available, please suggest some dates from the list below when you would be available for a

face-to-face meeting to explore EPA's likely role, if any. Feel free to suggest later dates if none of these work for you. If anyone could accompany me to the meeting June 3, to better include pyrethroids in the discussion, that would be excellent, too.

May 31

June 1

June 2

June 6 PM

June 7

June 10

Thanks,

Bruce Herbold